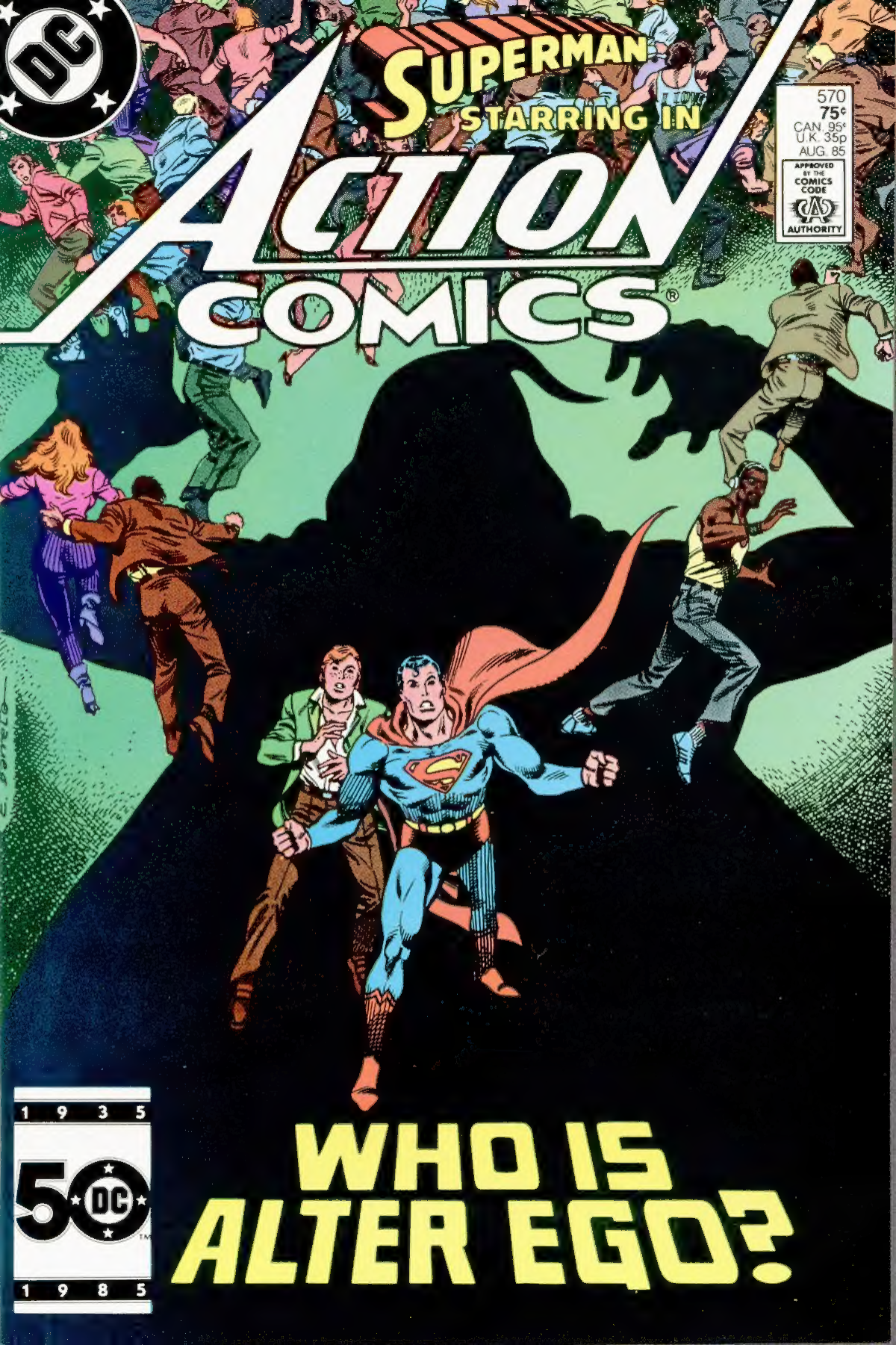
SUPERMAN
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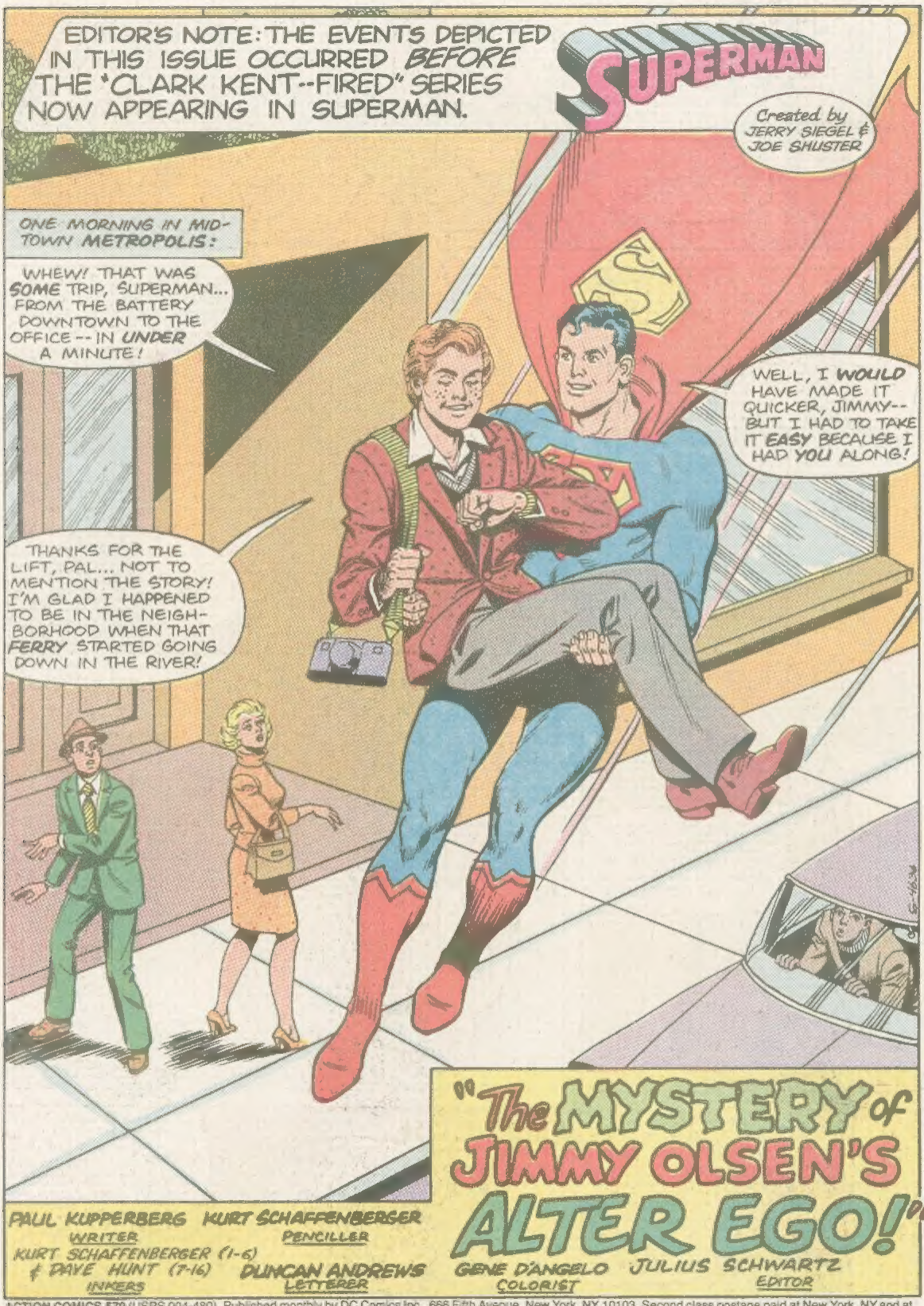
1985
WHO IS
ALTER EGO?


EDITOR'S NOTE: THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS ISSUE OCCURRED BEFORE THE "CLARK KENT--FIRED" SERIES NOW APPEARING IN SUPERMAN.
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
ONE MORNING IN MID-TOWN METROPOLIS:
WHEW! THAT WAS SOME TRIP, SUPERMAN... FROM THE BATTERY DOWNTOWN TO THE OFFICE -- IN UNDER A MINUTE!
WELL, I WOULD HAVE MADE IT QUICKER, JIMMY-- BUT I HAD TO TAKE IT EASY BECAUSE I HAD YOU ALONG!
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, PAL... NOT TO MENTION THE STORY! I'M GLAD I HAPPENED TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHEN THAT FERRY STARTED GOING DOWN IN THE RIVER!
"The MYSTERY of JIMMY OLSEN'S ALTER EGO!"
PAUL KUPPERBERG WRITER
KURT SCHAFFENBERGER PENCILLER
KURT SCHAFFENBERGER (1-6) & DAVE HUNT (7-16) INKERS
DUNCAN ANDREWS LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR

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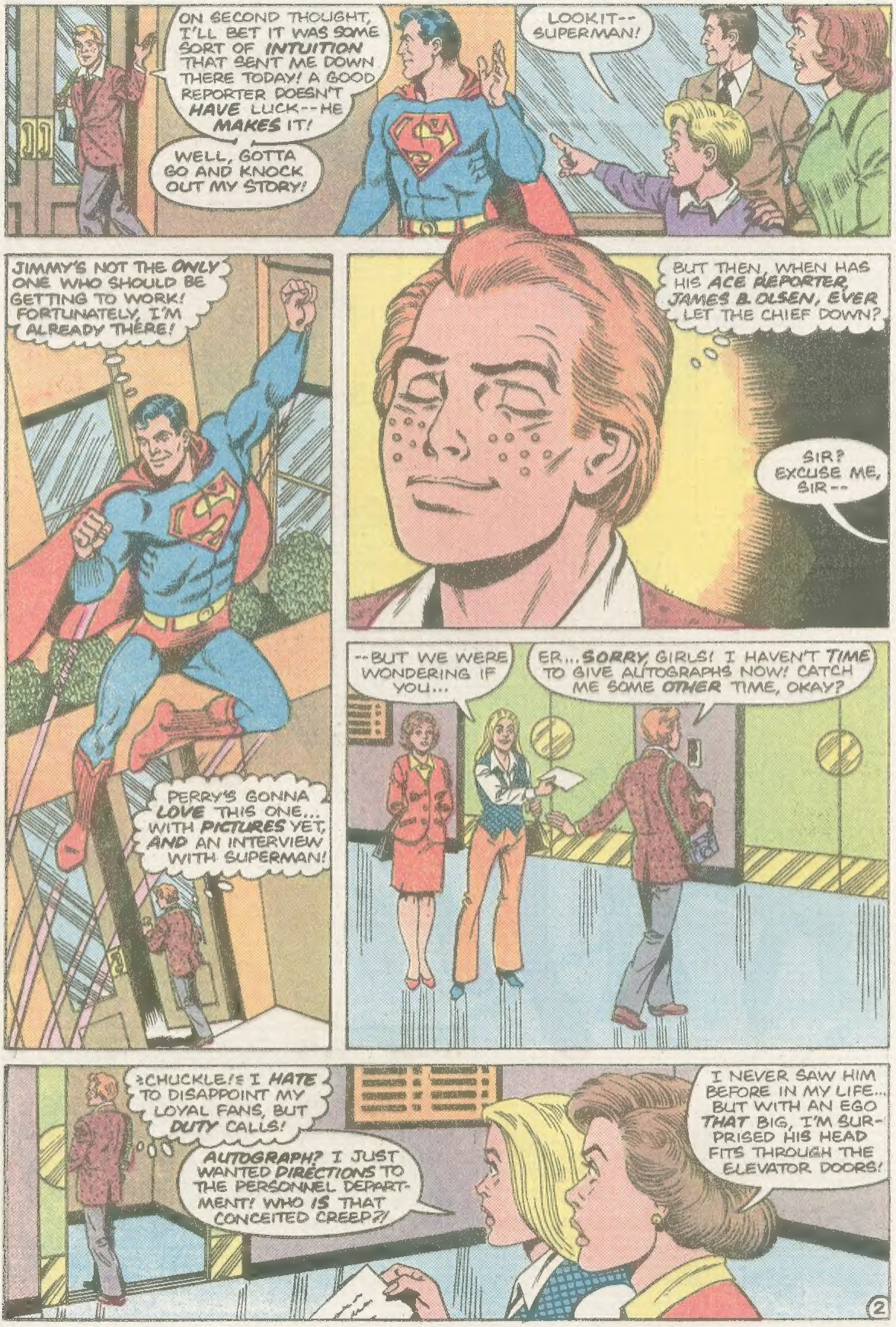
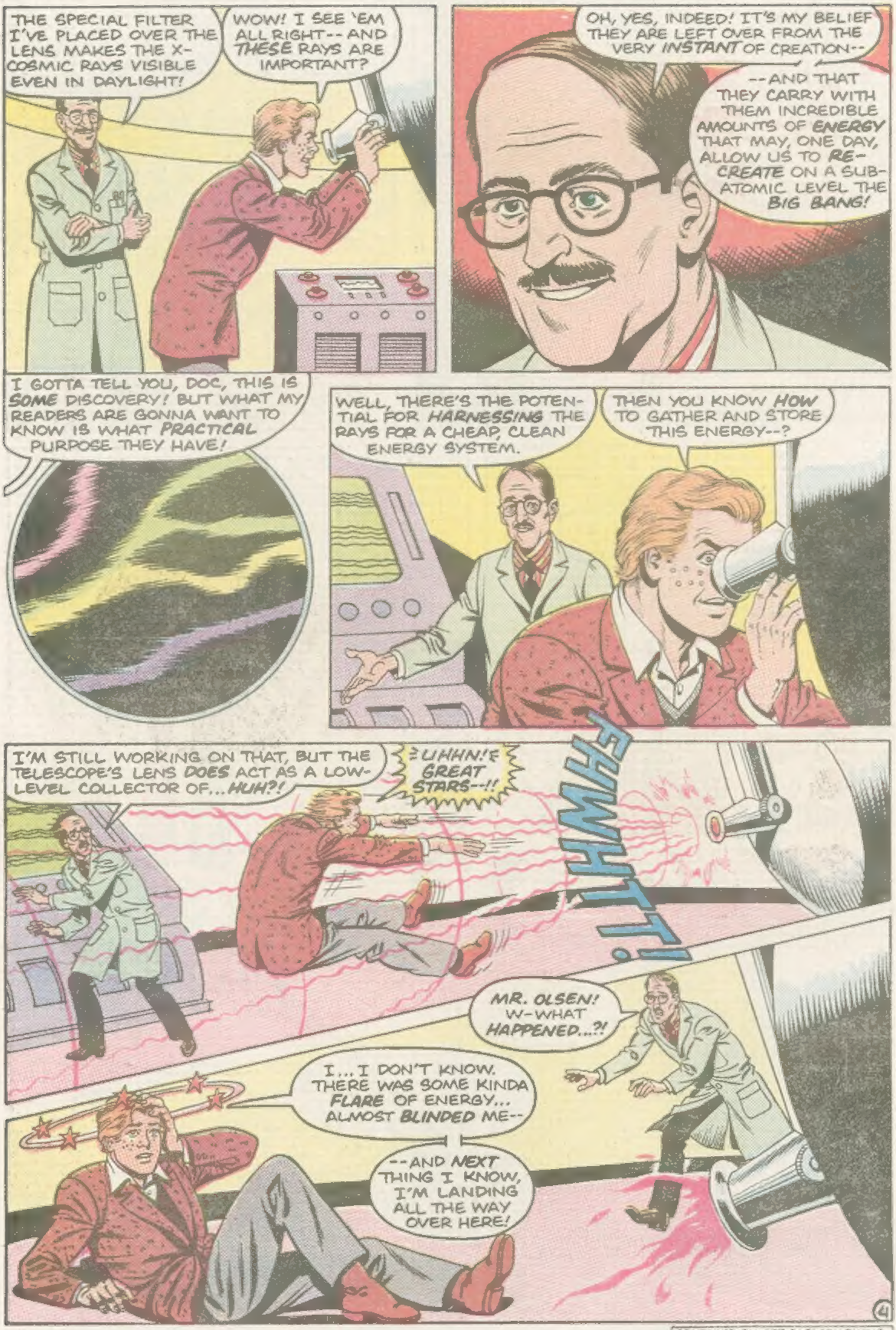

ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'LL BET IT WAS SOME SORT OF INTUITION THAT SENT ME DOWN THERE TODAY! A GOOD REPORTER DOESN'T HAVE LUCK--HE MAKES IT!
WELL, GOTTA GO AND KNOCK OUT MY STORY!
LOOKIT-- SUPERMAN!
JIMMY'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO SHOULD BE GETTING TO WORK! FORTUNATELY, I'M ALREADY THERE!
PERRY'S GONNA LOVE THIS ONE... WITH PICTURES YET, AND AN INTERVIEW WITH SUPERMAN!
BUT THEN, WHEN HAS HIS ACE REPORTER, JAMES B. OLSEN, EVER LET THE CHIEF DOWN?
SIR? EXCUSE ME, SIR--
--BUT WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU...
ER...SORRY, GIRLS! I HAVEN'T TIME TO GIVE AUTOGRAPHS NOW! CATCH ME SOME OTHER TIME, OKAY?
?CHUCKLE!? I HATE TO DISAPPOINT MY LOYAL FANS, BUT DUTY CALLS!
AUTOGRAPH? I JUST WANTED DIRECTIONS TO THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT! WHO IS THAT CONCEITED CREEP?!
I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE IN MY LIFE... BUT WITH AN EGO THAT BIG, I'M SURPRISED HIS HEAD FITS THROUGH THE ELEVATOR DOORS!
2

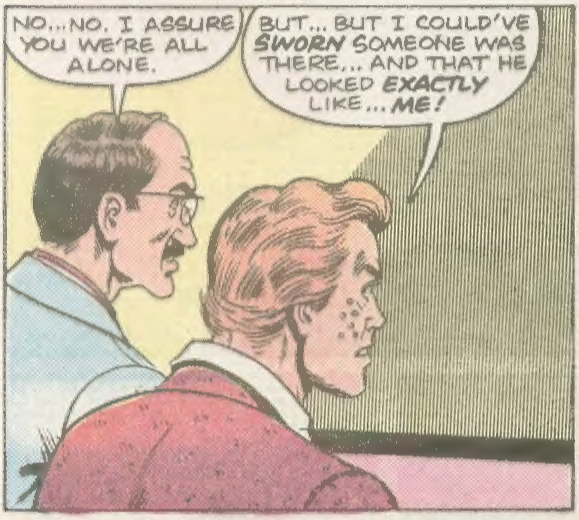
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CITY ROOM OF THE DAILY PLANET...
GREETINGS, ONE AND ALL! THE PRODIGAL SON HAS RETURNED BEARING SCOOPS!
RALPH, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN MY GETTING HEADACHES AND OLSEN COMING TO WORK, DO YOU?
'MORNING, PERRY! GUESS WHICH OF YOUR TALENTED REPORTERS PICKED UP A STORY ON HIS WAY IN?
AS I RECALL, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET PAID FOR...
...THAT, PLUS CONDUCTING YOUR INTERVIEWS--SUCH AS THE ONE WITH DR. MORTON AT THE MT. METROPOLIS OBSERVATORY!
NO SWEAT, CHIEF! THAT'S NOT UNTIL NOON!
TRY 10:30! HE CALLED TO MOVE IT UP!
YIKES! I BETTER MOVE IT IF I WANT TO MAKE IT!
YEAH, WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO THAT? AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, DON'T--
--YEAH, I KNOW--DON'T CALL ME CHIEF!
ONE HOUR LATER, MANY MILES OUTSIDE OF METROPOLIS...
...AND SO, BY CHARTING THE DIRECTION AND INTENSITY OF WHAT I HAVE COME TO CALL X-COSMIC RAYS--
--I'VE BROUGHT US ONE STEP CLOSER TO UNDERSTANDING THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE!
THAT'S HEAVY STUFF, DR. MORTON! MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK?
GO RIGHT AHEAD.
3

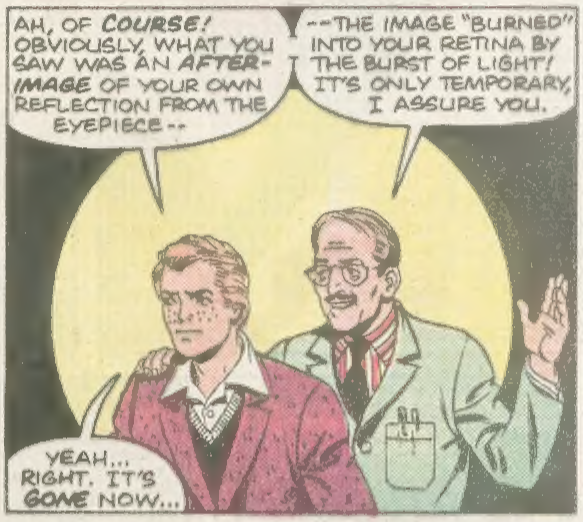

THE SPECIAL FILTER I'VE PLACED OVER THE LENS MAKES THE X-COSMIC RAYS VISIBLE EVEN IN DAYLIGHT!
WOW! I SEE 'EM ALL RIGHT-- AND THESE RAYS ARE IMPORTANT?
OH, YES, INDEED! IT'S MY BELIEF THEY ARE LEFT OVER FROM THE VERY INSTANT OF CREATION--
--AND THAT THEY CARRY WITH THEM INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY THAT MAY, ONE DAY, ALLOW US TO RE-CREATE ON A SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL THE BIG BANG!
I GOTTA TELL YOU, DOC, THIS IS SOME DISCOVERY! BUT WHAT MY READERS ARE GONNA WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT PRACTICAL PURPOSE THEY HAVE!
WELL, THERE'S THE POTENTIAL FOR HARNESSING THE RAYS FOR A CHEAP, CLEAN ENERGY SYSTEM.
THEN YOU KNOW HOW TO GATHER AND STORE THIS ENERGY--?
I'M STILL WORKING ON THAT, BUT THE TELESCOPE'S LENS DOES ACT AS A LOW-LEVEL COLLECTOR OF...HUH?!
=UHHN!= GREAT STARS--!!
FSHWHT!
MR. OLSEN! W-WHAT HAPPENED...?!
I...I DON'T KNOW. THERE WAS SOME KINDA FLARE OF ENERGY... ALMOST BLINDED ME--
--AND NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M LANDING ALL THE WAY OVER HERE!
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

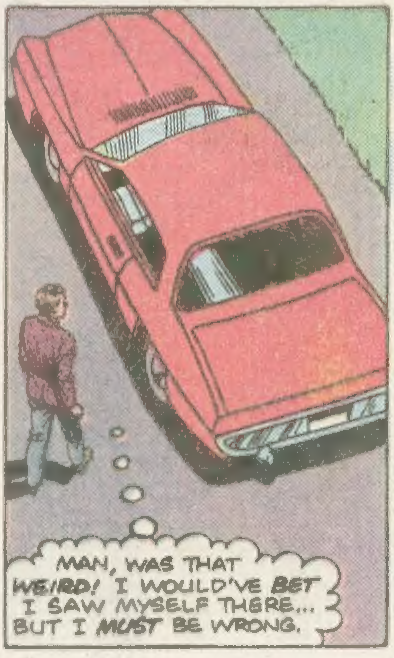
THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
I'M SO SORRY!
W-WELL, NO HARM DONE, I GUESS... EXCEPT FOR SEEING THESE BLASTED STARS!

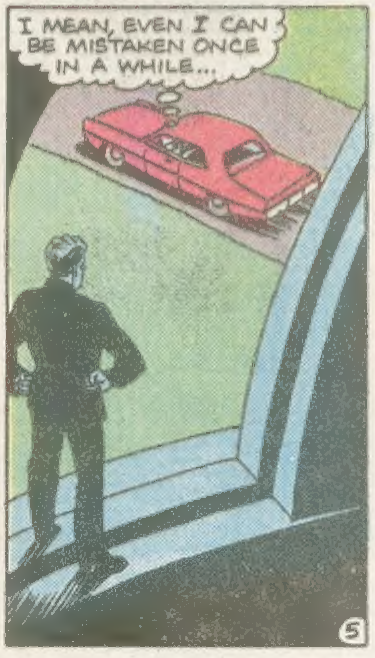
AND EVEN THAT'S CLEARING UP, SO I... HUH?!
DR. MORTON--LOOK OVER THERE! THERE'S SOMEONE WATCHING US...!


NO...NO. I ASSURE YOU WE'RE ALL ALONE.
BUT... BUT I COULD'VE SWORN SOMEONE WAS THERE... AND THAT HE LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE... ME!


AH, OF COURSE! OBVIOUSLY, WHAT YOU SAW WAS AN AFTER-IMAGE OF YOUR OWN REFLECTION FROM THE EYEPIECE--
--THE IMAGE "BURNED" INTO YOUR RETINA BY THE BURST OF LIGHT! IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY, I ASSURE YOU.
YEAH... RIGHT. IT'S GONE NOW...

AS YOU SAID, NO HARM DONE. PERHAPS YOU WOULD RATHER FINISH THE INTERVIEW SOME OTHER TIME?
I THINK THAT'D BE BEST, DR. MORTON. THANKS FOR THE TOUR!


MAN, WAS THAT WEIRD! I WOULD'VE BET I SAW MYSELF THERE... BUT I MUST BE WRONG.


I MEAN, EVEN I CAN BE MISTAKEN ONCE IN A WHILE...
5

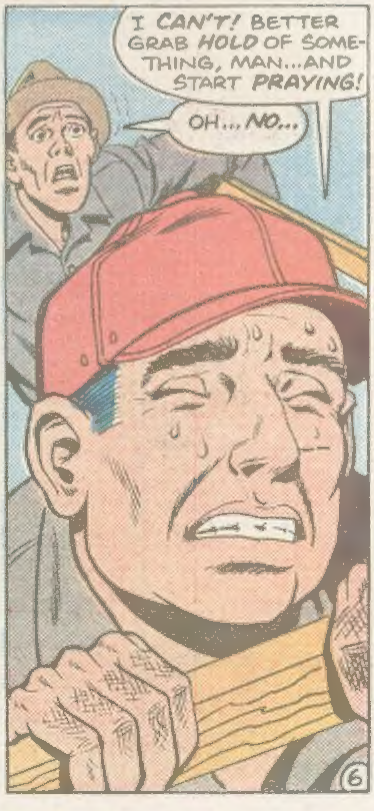
THE FOLLOWING DAY, OVER DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS...
CHALK UP ANOTHER ONE FOR MY SUPER-HEARING! I DIDN'T MEAN TO EAVESDROP--

--BUT WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY OVERHEAR TWO SUPPOSED WINDOW-WASHERS TALKING ABOUT THE GREAT HEIST THEY JUST PULLED OFF... WELL, I GOT CURIOUS!
I CAN'T GET OVER HOW EASY IT WAS...

...JUST WALTZIN' INTO THAT LOCKED BROKERAGE OFFICE THROUGH THE WINDOW, AND BACK OUT WITH A HALF MILLION IN NEGOTIABLE BONDS!
YEAH! AN' THEY SAY CRIME DON'T PAY! HAH HAH!

I CAN'T WAIT TO...TO... HEY! SLOW DOWN, JACK! WHAT'S YOUR RUSH?
IT AIN'T ME, GEORGE! THE BLASTED CONTROLS WON'T RESPOND! WE'RE RUNNIN' WILD!

WHAT WE'RE RUNNIN'... IS OUT OF BUILDING! YOU GOTTA STOP THIS THING!


I CAN'T! BETTER GRAB HOLD OF SOMETHING, MAN...AND START PRAYING!
OH... NO...
6

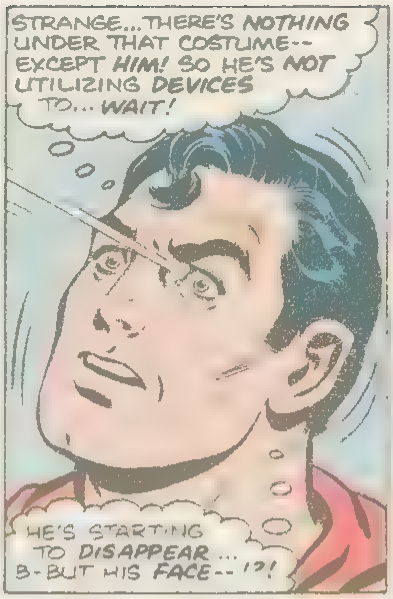
HOPE I DIDN'T FRIGHTEN YOU GUYS...TOO MUCH! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY A LITTLE RIDE!
G-GEORGE... Y-YOUR VOICE ...D-DID IT CHANGE...?
≥GROAN!≤ IT'S NOT MY VOICE, JACK! IT... IT'S SUPERMAN'S!
S-SUPERMAN'S!?!
≥WHEW!≤ WHAT A RELIEF!
THEY WON'T BE DOING ANY RESISTING, AND WITH THE STOLEN BONDS HIDDEN IN THEIR WATERPAIL--
--THE POLICE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A GOOD CASE AGAINST THEM!
HUH?!
CLOMP!
THE SCAFFOLD'S SUDDENLY GOTTEN HEAVIER! SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S LANDED ON IT!
SKRAT-BLAAM!
GREAT KRYPTON!!
7

HELP! SAVE US, SUPERMAN!
RELAX! THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME TO CATCH YOU BEFORE YOUR TRIP'S OVER--
--BUT BEFORE I TURN MY BACK, I WANT TO KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR... HUH?!?
HIYA, MAN OF STEEL! SORRY TO BE SO ABRUPT, BUT I FIGURED SINCE THOSE CREEPS WERE HEADED FOR THE SLAMMER, THEY WOULDN'T BE NEEDING THESE STOLEN BONDS!
BESIDES, ALL THIS LOOT CAN BE PUT TO GOOD USE BY YOURS TRULY--ALTER EGO!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SO IMPRESSED WITH YOURSELF, EGO... BUT YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I TAKE YOU DOWN A PEG OR TWO...
...AFTER I'VE UNDONE THE DAMAGE YOU CAUSED!
HEY, NO SWEAT! YOU DO YOUR HERO NUMBER. I'LL WAIT!
STEADY, MEN! I'VE GOT YOU!
...BUT I DON'T GET THIS ALTER EGO CHARACTER! HE'S NOT MAKING A MOVE TO ESCAPE!
IN FACT, HE ACTS LIKE HE WANTS A CONFRONTATION WITH ME!
FHSSSSSST!
8

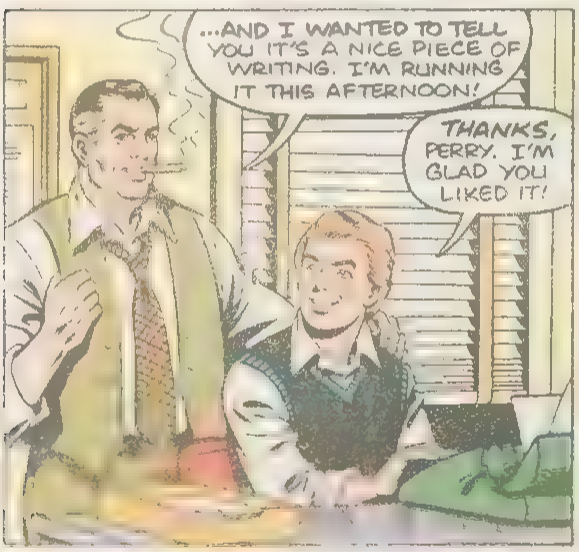
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

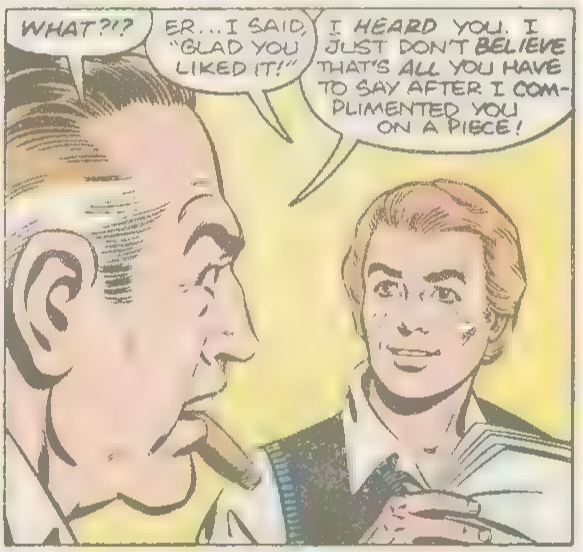
WELL, IF HE'S WILLING TO WAIT THERE FOR ME TO COME BACK AND GRAB HIM--
--WHO AM I TO DISAPPOINT HIM?!
THAT'S THE TICKET, SUPERMAN! COME AND GET ME!
IT'LL BE A PLEASURE! THEN MAYBE YOU'D CARE TO EXPLAIN HOW YOU DO WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
OH, THAT'S AN EASY ONE TO ANSWER! I CAN DO ANY-THING I WANT! THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF BEING AS WONDERFUL AS YOURS TRULY!
EXCUSE ME IF I'M NOT IMPRESSED, ALTER EGO, BUT I HEAR THAT KIND OF TALK TOO OFTEN TO... UGH!
WHOOOOOOSH!
OH, PUH-LEAZE, SUPERMAN! I'M NOT JUST BRAGGING! I DON'T HAVE TO--
--'CAUSE I REALLY AM SO GREAT, SOME-TIMES I IMPRESS EVEN MYSELF!
SKRAATHOOOOM!
OOOOFF!
HE'S NOT KIDDING! THIS ALTER EGO'S GOT SOME MIGHTY GOOD TRICKS UP HIS SLEEVE!
KRAAK!
9

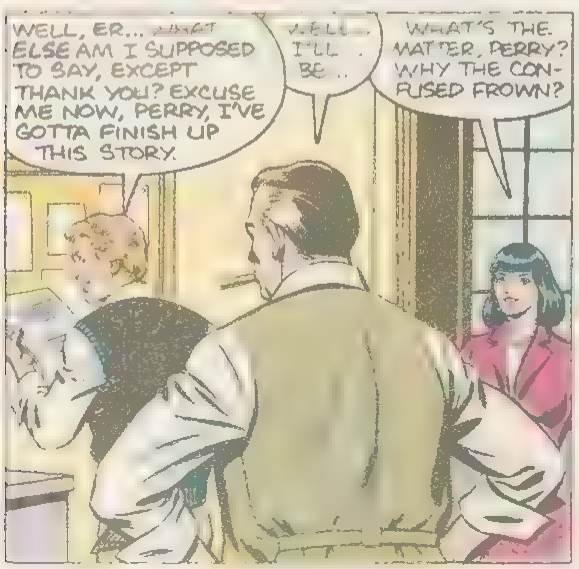
I THINK I'D BETTER LET MY SUPER-VISION FIND OUT JUST WHO HE IS AND HOW HE DOES IT BEFORE I GO CHARGING AFTER HIM AGAIN!


STRANGE...THERE'S NOTHING UNDER THAT COSTUME-- EXCEPT HIM! SO HE'S NOT UTILIZING DEVICES TO... WAIT!
HE'S STARTING TO DISAPPEAR... B-BUT HIS FACE--!?!

LATER...
DAILY UGBS
OLSEN! I JUST FINISHED GOING OVER YOUR INTERVIEW WITH DR. MORTON.

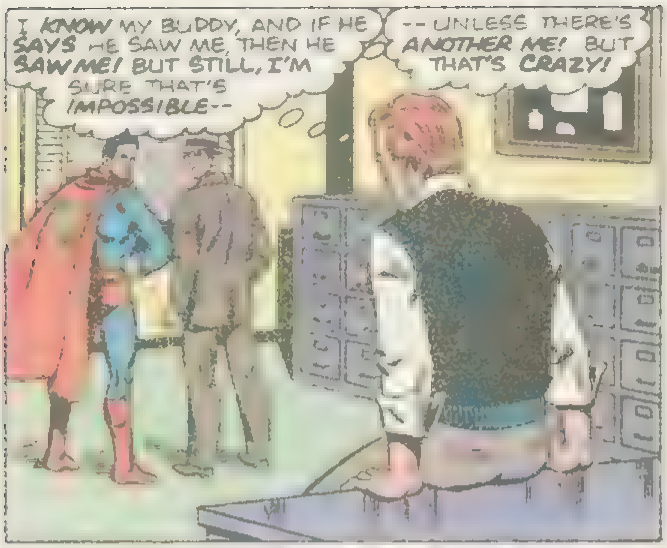

...AND I WANTED TO TELL YOU IT'S A NICE PIECE OF WRITING. I'M RUNNING IT THIS AFTERNOON!
THANKS, PERRY. I'M GLAD YOU LIKED IT!

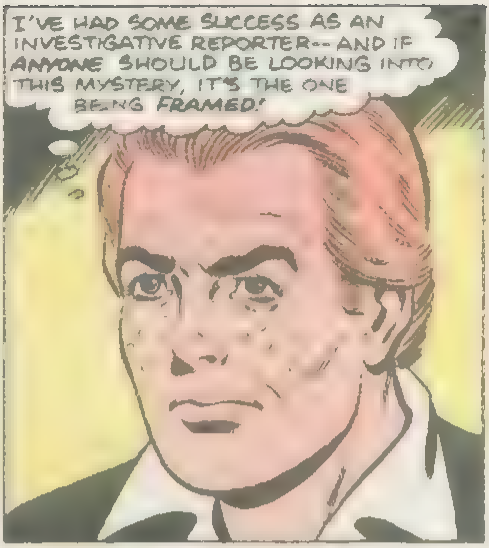

WHAT?!?
ER... I SAID, "GLAD YOU LIKED IT!"
I HEARD YOU. I JUST DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY AFTER I COMPLIMENTED YOU ON A PIECE!


WELL, ER... WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY, EXCEPT THANK YOU? EXCUSE ME NOW, PERRY, I'VE GOTTA FINISH UP THIS STORY.
WELL... I'LL BE...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, PERRY? WHY THE CONFUSED FROWN?

I JUST SAID SOMETHING NICE TO OLSEN... AND ALL HE DID WAS THANK ME!
WELL, I'LL ADMIT THAT'S UNUSUAL, BUT MAYBE HIS MIND'S ON OTHER THINGS
10

WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORTANT TO MAKE THAT LITTLE EGO-MANIAC FORGET TO TOOT HIS OWN HORN AT THE DROP OF A COMPLI-MENT?
WE ALL HAVE OUR OFF DAYS, PERRY.
I SUPPOSE SO, BUT... EH?!
SUPERMAN AND INSPECTOR HENDERSON! WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
THERE HE IS, INSPECTOR!
I SEE HIM, SUPERMAN. ARE YOU SURE OF THIS?
I'M AFRAID SO, BILL! I COULDN'T BE MISTAKEN!
OLSEN! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
INSPECTOR, AND SUPERMAN! HI, GUYS! WHAT'S UP?
THAT'S WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW, OLSEN! SUPERMAN JUST CAME OFF OF FIGHTING SOME NEW CRIMINAL CALLING HIMSELF ALTER EGO ...WHO HAPPENS TO HAVE YOUR FACE!
CARE TO EXPLAIN THAT, OLSEN?
M-ME?!? I... I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA! I'VE BEEN HERE ALL DAY!
WE CAN VOUCH FOR JIMMY, BILL. JIMMY'S BEEN IN THE CITY ROOM SINCE LUNCH-TIME!
BUT IT WAS YOU I SAW, JIMMY... RIGHT DOWN TO YOUR FINGERPRINTS!
C'MON, PAL! YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT! I'M NO CROOK!
I KNOW WHAT I SAW, JIMMY... BUT MY SUPER-HEARING TELLS ME YOUR HEARTBEAT'S STEADY WHEN YOU SAY IT WASN'T YOU!
YEAH, AND THAT SUPER-LIE-DETECTOR OF YOURS IS NEVER WRONG! SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US NOW?
11


I KNOW MY BUDDY, AND IF HE SAYS HE SAW ME, THEN HE SAW ME! BUT STILL, I'M SURE THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE--
--UNLESS THERE'S ANOTHER ME! BUT THAT'S CRAZY!

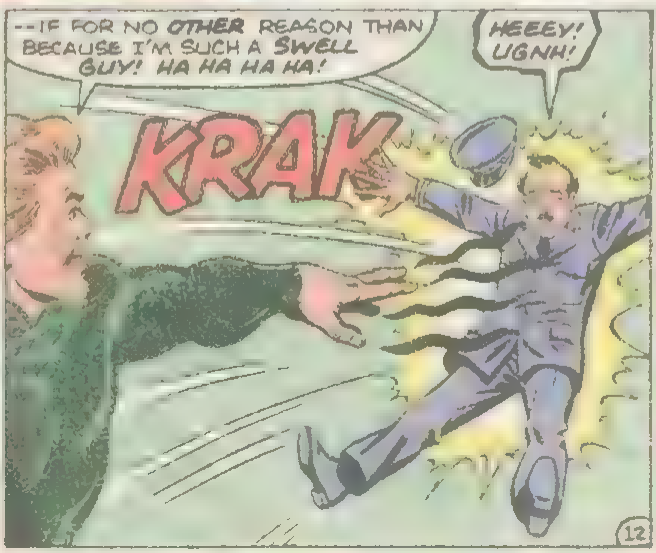

I'VE HAD SOME SUCCESS AS AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER--AND IF ANYONE SHOULD BE LOOKING INTO THIS MYSTERY, IT'S THE ONE BEING FRAMED!

THIS'S SQUIRRELLY, SUPERMAN. WE BOTH KNOW OLSEN WOULD NEVER BE INVOLVED IN ANYTHING LIKE TH S!
STILL, I'VE GOT TO PUT A MAN ON HIS TAIL...JUST IN CASE!
DON'T FEEL SO BAD, BILL. YOU'RE JUST DOING YOUR JOB.

AND I'VE GOT TO DO MINE! I'VE GOT TO CLEAR JIMMY... PROVIDED HE CAN BE CLEARED OR-- ARREST - M IF HE CAN'T!

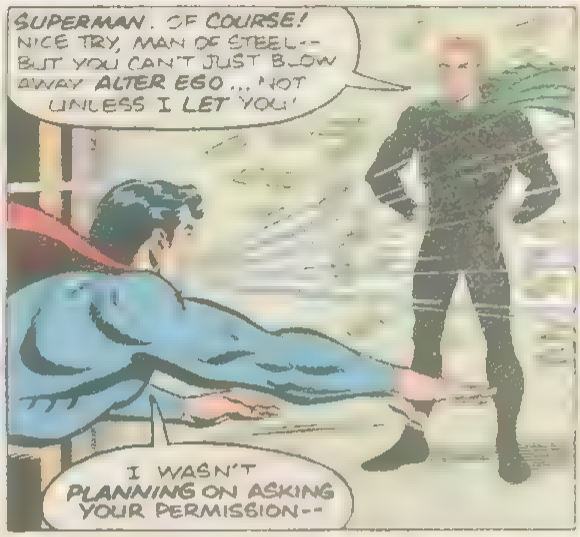
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
EXCUSE ME, SIR. I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE...
FIRST METROPOLIS TRUST BANK

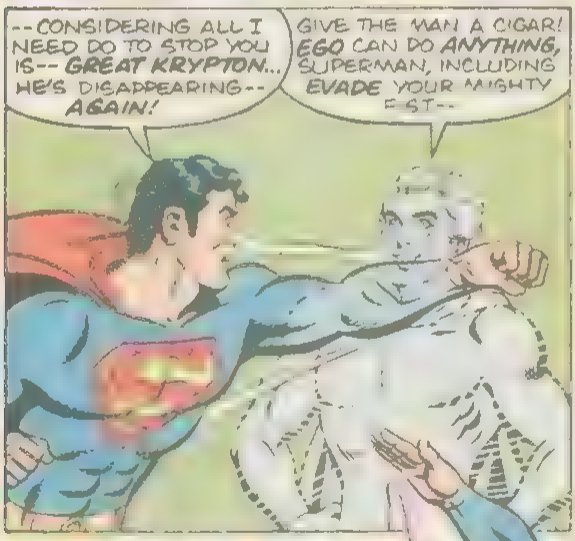
WE DON'T ALLOW ANY ADVERTISING GIMMICKS OR SOLICITING ON THE PREMISES!
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY, BECAUSE I'M NOT SOLICITING ANYTHING! ALL I WANT IS WHAT I DESERVE--

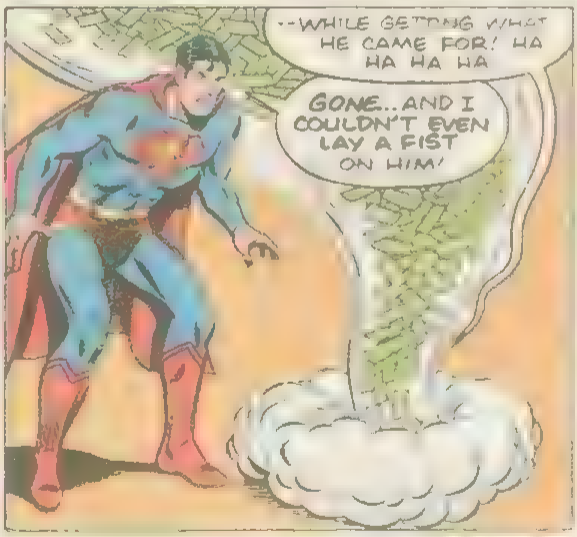

--IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN BECAUSE I'M SUCH A SWELL GUY! HA HA HA HA!
HEEEY! UGNH!
KRAK

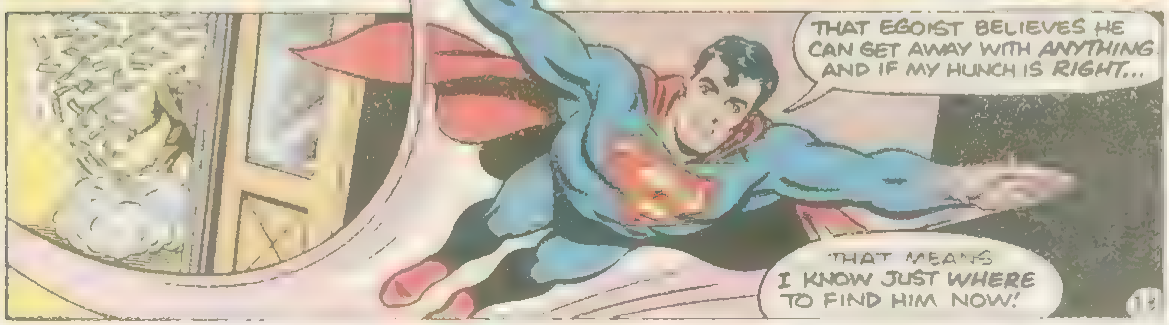
I CAN SEE YOU'RE ALL AWED TO SEE ME IN ACTION!
BUT THEN, WHO CAN BLAME YOU? HECK, I WISH I WERE YOU, SO I COULD GET TO SEE ME! HA HA HA!

LET'S NOT GET TOO COCKY, ALTER EGO!
WHO...? THAT WIND! WHERE..?!
WHOOOSH!


SUPERMAN. OF COURSE! NICE TRY, MAN OF STEEL-- BUT YOU CAN'T JUST BLOW AWAY ALTER EGO... NOT UNLESS I LET YOU!
I WASN'T PLANNING ON ASKING YOUR PERMISSION--


--CONSIDERING ALL I NEED DO TO STOP YOU IS-- GREAT KRYPTON... HE'S DISAPPEARING-- AGAIN!
GIVE THE MAN A CIGAR! EGO CAN DO ANYTHING, SUPERMAN, INCLUDING EVADE YOUR MIGHTY FIST--

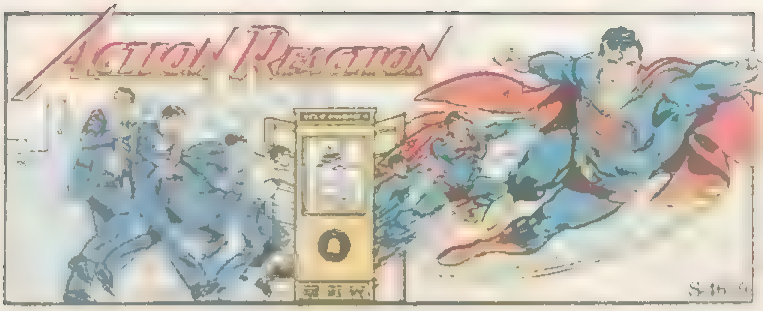

--WHILE GETTING WHAT HE CAME FOR! HA HA HA HA
GONE... AND I COULDN'T EVEN LAY A FIST ON HIM!


THAT EGOIST BELIEVES HE CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING AND IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT...
THAT MEANS I KNOW JUST WHERE TO FIND HIM NOW!

MEANWHILE..
WGBS
WELL, THAT WAS A MONUMENTAL WASTE OF TIME! I MUST'VE TALKED TO EVERY STOOLIE ON THE STREETS--
--AND NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT A CLOWN WITH MY FACE WHO CALLS HIMSELF ALTER EGO!
COULD SUPERMAN HAVE BEEN WRONG?
MAYBE BUT I DOUBT IT! HE DOESN'T MAKE THOSE KIND OF MISTAKES!
SO-- COULD IT BE ME? I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING... AND IF I'M SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR ALTER EGO, I...
WHOOOSSH!
YIKES!
I... I'M BEING ATTACKED.. BY .. CASH?!
NOT QUITE, JIMMY! I JUST NEEDED A SAFE HAVEN FOR A FEW MOMENTS, AND WHERE BETTER THAN MY OFFICE?
Y-YOUR OFFICE...?! BUT THIS IS MY...
YOURS... MINE... WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
IT'S ALL THE SAME IN THE LONG RUN! HA HA HA!
HOLY COW! Y-YOU... ARE ME!
ACTUALLY, WE'RE EACH OTHER
14

..BUT I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND! ALL YOU'VE GOTTA KNOW IS THAT YOU'RE GONNA BE SEEING A LOT OF ME--LIKE IT OR NOT!
WAITAMMINIT... I GET IT NOW! THE BURST OF ENERGY AT DR. MORTON'S THE OTHER DAY.. THE FIGURE I THOUGHT I SAW...
..WAS YOU! SOMEHOW, THE X-COSMIC RAYS SPLIT ME IN TWO, CREATING AN EVIL DUPLICATE OF ME!
PLEASE! I'M NOT EVIL ..JUST WONDERFUL! I'M YOUR EGO, JIMMY-
--AND WE BOTH KNOW HOW BIG AND STRONG THAT IS! HA HA HA!
IT WAS NEVER THIS BIG WHEN I HAD IT! NO WAY AM I GONNA LET YOU KEEP THIS UP!
HA! AND YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME!
FWHOSH
HE CAN'T, ALTER EGO--
--BUT I CAN!
BAH! I'VE ALREADY PROVEN YOU'RE NO PROBLEM FOR ME, SUPERMAN!
THAT WAS WHEN YOU WERE USING YOUR GIMMICKS--
--BUT MAN-TO-MAN.. WELL, YOU WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE!
STAND BACK, JIMMY! THIS COULD GET STICKY!
HEY, HE'S ALL YOURS, PAL!
15

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, MAN OF STEEL! IN CASE YOU'RE FORGETTING, I'M ALTER EGO--AND THAT MEANS I CAN DO ANYTHING!
SO FAR, ALL I'VE HEARD IS BIG TALK!
FOOL! I'LL SHOW YOU...I'LL SHOW EVERYBODY THAT I'M THE GREATEST! I'LL RIP YOU APART...!
CRAK!
KHA-BRASSSH!
WOW! YOU DID IT, SUPERMAN!
IT WASN'T TOUGH. I KNEW NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL HE WAS, HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE A DIRECT HIT--
--BUT ANYBODY THAT EGOTISTICAL WASN'T ABOUT TO ADMIT HE WAS VULNERABLE TO ANYTHING!
SUPERMAN! HE'S... DISSOLVING... HE'S GONNA ESCAPE!
NO, HE'S BREAKING UP.. AND RETURNING WHERE HE BELONGS...INSIDE YOU!
I THINK THAT ENDS THE EPISODE OF YOUR ALTER EGO, JIMMY!
WHEW! SOME WEIRD BUSINESS, HUH, PAL? WELL, IF YOU HADN'T HANDLED IT, AT LEAST YOU HAD JAMES B. OLSEN ON HAND TO PULL THE FAT OUT OF THE FIRE!
HMMM...EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL...INCLUDING JIMMY'S EGO! OH, WELL, YOU CAN'T WIN THEM ALL--!
NEXT: "MISSION TO EARTH"
COVER BY BRIAN BOLLAND



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Dear Julie and Bob,

ACTION #566 was yet another wonderful issue. For pleasant, lighthearted fun and adventure, it just couldn't be beat.

"Traumas in the Bahamas" was another exuberant and skillfully crafted yarn from the gifted pen of Craig Boldman. Intricately constructed, and crammed with incident, the story never seemed contrived or crowded, and it unfolded with great charm. I was pleased by the return of Lois Lane, looking very fetching in her one-piece bathing suit. Clark even got to ditch his horrid dark blue suit and red-and-black striped tie for a Hawaiian shirt and orange Bermuda shorts! The playful homage to E.C. Segar's timeless characters was another unexpected delight. Craig supplied Captain Strong and his Pappy with some of the funniest dialogue in years, and the whole affair had an irresistible spirit of fun.

Unfortunately, I felt the art didn't do justice to the story. Ron Randall and Karl Kesel are two formidable artists, but their work here, although competent, looked rushed and sketchy. Better luck next issue.

As enjoyable and clever as the opening story was, my favorite this issue was the beautiful eight-pager, "With Love from Superman." Mindy Newell fashioned an unpretentious, emotionally honest, and completely winning little jewel of a story that was by turns funny, fantastic, and at the end, richly poignant. The story had people, places, and dreams that everyone can identify with. Am I correct in detecting a note of wish fulfillment between writer Mindy and her character Molly?

Howard Bender's pencils couldn't have been better. The art was full of knowing touches (the kids' clothes, Molly's room) that made the story real. I liked the references to Gil Kane on pages 4 and 5. My only question is: Why don't we get to see more of Mr. Bender's stunning art? He is unquestionably the most innovative *Superman* artist, and I feel he should be showcased more frequently. My compliments also to Bob Oksner for a superb inking job.

The moving closing panel of the story (especially the look on *Superman*'s face) was enough to melt the hardest of hearts. I know it melted mine. Was it sentimental? Sure, but gloriously so! *Superman* is indeed a creation that inspires not just wonder and admiration, but love as well.

DAVID PULLEYBACK
Box 103
Denver, IA 50622

David, I also find Howard's descriptions of kids' rooms very true-to-life. I know because I spend hours every day trying to make my kids' rooms look less like kids' rooms and more like real people live in them! A hopeless task! As for more Howard Bender work, I know for a fact that Bob will be plotting a story this weekend that Howard will be penciling for an upcoming issue. How's that for service?—LR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob,

Oh, boy! The little kid in me always gets excited when you bring back Captain Strong, one of my favorite supporting characters in the *Superman* family. I guess it sort of takes me back to my childhood, when *Superman* and *Popeye* were my absolute favorite strongmen. It seems very fitting to me that you should choose to pay tribute to *Popeye the Sailor* in this manner. *Popeye* hit the funny papers in 1929, and the silver screen in 1933, and was therefore performing his own brand of super-heroics for several years when *ACTION* #1 hit the newsstand. It is therefore conceivable, even likely, that *Superman* (and consequently all of comicdom) have been inspired in part by this legendary character. I guess [illegible] could tell us for sure.

Getting down to specifics, "Traumas in the Bahamas" was pure entertainment. I especially enjoyed the finale, wherein Strong triumphs over a bogus *Superman*. How many of your readers remember a 1944 animated cartoon entitled "She-Sick Sailors" wherein Popeye duked it out with a phony (but very genuine-looking) *Superman* (Bluto in disguise, of course)? Talk about deja-vu!

On the final pages of your story Clark Kent wonders how Captain Strong has managed to win without the aid of his sauncha. Here's my theory. Repeated ingestion of sauncha has altered Captain Strong's metabolism such that he now derives the same strength-enhancing benefits whenever he eats green leafy vegetables found on earth, such as spinach! What do you think?

RALPH SILVER
67 Murdoch Street
Hunting Station, NY 11746

Well, Ralph, I think your theory has something to it. I feed Bob spinach whenever there is something heavy to move, like a piano. As a matter of fact, I just bought a piano, so Bob's in for a real treat!—LR

*****

Dear Bob and Julie,

E.C. Segar would have been proud! If readers were never sure that Captain Strong is the Earth-One counterpart of *Popeye*, then *ACTION* #566 should absolve all their doubts. When I first saw the crusty sailor in *ACTION* #421, I thought there was something vaguely familiar about him. When I saw Strong again in *SUPER* [illegible] with a dark haired skinny girlfriend named "Olivia," I instantly recognized Strong.

There were more obvious allusions to *THIMBLE THEATRE* in *ACTION* #566. For example, there were the Earth-One equivalents of the Sea Hag, Wimpy, and Poopdeck Pappy. Strong mistakes some spinach for sauncha and he propels a rowboat via "sauncha power." His wife's cry for help on page 12 would have made Mac Questel proud (for the information on non-Popeye fans, Questel was the voice of Olive Oyl in the cartoons). Also, Olivia is wearing an outfit very much like the one Olive Oyl wears in the cartoons produced by Famous Studios. Finally, this issue was laid out like Bud Sagendorf's *Popeye* comic books of the 40's and 50's—especially with the first page encircled faces of the characters down one side of the page.

The story itself had a nice tribute to Segar's two 1936 story lines which had *Popeye* searching for Poopdeck Pappy and then almost losing Pappy to the clutches of the Sea Hag. However, I was hoping the "Mystery Scoundrel" would be a certain rotund, bullying, bearded fellow we *Popeye* fans all know and love. Maybe we'll see this fellow in future issues?

In conclusion, it's only fitting that *ACTION* would do a tribute to the granddaddy of super-heroes, since both *Popeye* and *Superman* once had cartoon series produced by Max Fleischer and, later on, Famous Studios. Incidentally, Famous

produced a 1944 cartoon called "She Sick Sailors" in which *Popeye* acquired *Superman*'s powers and costume after eating spinach!

BILLY FORD
1714 Shewalt Dr.
Richmond, VA 23228

The more I think about it, the more I believe that I am on to something big here. And poor Bob thought pastrami and roast beef were the answers!—LR

*****

Dear Julie,

How's my favorite comic book editor in the whole world doing? Sorry I've been out of touch lately.

ACTION #566: Ron Randall and Karl Kesel do this book proud. The marriage of Ron's pencils and Karl's inks form a beautiful union of styles. You made the hero look as handsome as all get out, just like he ought to look. Lois was gorgeous—all the other stuff didn't look bad either!

As for the story, I say more Craig Boldman! This story had action, adventure, humor, magic, a terrific setting, and Lois to boot.

A nicely done back-up tale by Mindy Newell, who handles kids quite well. Molly's a sweetheart. I love these sappy tales now and then. They often reveal more of *Superman*'s character than the more action-packed stories do. Howard Bender, you draw a girl's room like nobody's business! Your style was perfect for this story.

BARB SCHROEDER
Address Withheld By Request

Things are looking up! Bob has to eat all that spinach to move the piano, but Julie gets all the love and adoration! And he told Bob being an editor was easier than Production Manager. As a matter of fact, the reason I'm typing this is because Bob is in Montreal doing a press ok at Ronalds—up at 3:00 A.M. to check colors while I think of interesting ways to disguise spinach!—LR

*****

Dear Julie, Bob, and Craig,

Of all your Captain Strong stories, the latest, in *ACTION* #566, was the most enjoyable because it truly reflected *Popeye* as he was intended to be. As a *Popeye* expert and a staunch admirer of Elzie C. Segar, it is sad that so many people know nothing of the creator of *Popeye*, who ironically enough died in 1938, the same year *Superman* first saw print. I loved all the references to the original Segar comic strip here. To whit:

—The Wimpy prototype, J. Wellington Jones, was a delight. I instantly recognized the name as a reference to when Whimpy would try to avoid an enemy by claiming to be "one of the Jones boys."

—Captain Strong referring to Olivia as his "Sweet Patootie."

—The evil witch of the sea and her pets, a clear reference to *Popeye*'s true arch-foe, The Sea Hag.

—*Superman* claiming that spinach was sauncha.

—The Fountain of Youth on the deserted island. I recognized the reference to the 1935 *Popeye* story, "The Pool of Youth," which featured the Sea Hag and her sister.

—Captain Strong's father was, of course, a reference to *Popeye*'s Poop-deck Pappy.

—Captain Strong's statement that in any fight, good always comes out on top. *Popeye* would also say the same thing in the midst of some battle with some bruiser.

—The final statement about Captain Strong and Clark: "They are what they are" or as *Popeye* would say, "They yam what they yam!"

—The absence of any Bluto take-off. In the original comic strip, Bluto was a one-shot villain who never became any real rival for *Popeye*.

This *Popeye* fan thanks you for the wonderful story, which Segar would have surely loved. I wishes ya alla the best inna future! Arf-arf!

RICHARD RANKE
22359 Calverton Rd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Richard, I did a 350-page doctoral dissertation, and I don't think I did as much research as you have. Have you ever considered a Ph.D. in Popeye?—LR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob,

"With Love from Superman," the insignificant 8-pager in *ACTION* #566, is a sure bet to wind up in your *BEST OF THE YEAR* annual. Alternately humorous and extremely touching, it was very, very enjoyable. It's nice to know there are celebrities who still take a personal hand in the mail, in this age of impersonal "Write my agent" garbage (even if the conscientious ones are in comic books). "Trauma in the Bahamas" was also a good story, even though the parallels to *Popeye* got a little thick at times. In previous stories, the similarities were only alluded to, leaving something to the reader's imagination. You may have put every wonderful lookalike gag into one story, though there was room for more. We saw "Wimpy" and "Sea Hag," but no one that resembled Bluto. *Popeye* without Bluto is like the former without his green weed.

Craig Boldman must be a fan of the "strong sailor," as the slang and everything else appeared to be handled with extreme loving care. Only one mystery remains—where was the other half of Lois Lane's bathing suit?

CHARLES D. BROWN
39 Stockton St.
Brentwood, NY 11717

Charles, it's a good thing I'm doing this lettercol today, because it's obvious you men don't know anything about fashion! What other half? Fella, don't you know style when you see it?—LR

Dear Julie and Bob,

How do you top the *Ambush Bug* in *ACTION* #565? Well, you don't, so in issue #566 you gave us DC's *Popeye* parody in Captain Strong, his wife Olive Oyl, and Wimpy ... er, I mean Olivia and J. Wellington Jones. I'm not too sure why Clark thought Strong saw him do a *Superman* stunt. He was deep under water the whole time. Lois looked the best she has in ages, but that suit she was wearing was terrible, which means that it's the height of fashion.

The back-up story of the autograph hounds was cute. Almost silly, in fact. It was great! All of the *Superman* titles need more of this type of story.

JEF PECKHAM
4303 Pearl, #4
Kansas City, KS 66103

Now, Jef knows fashion when he sees it ... or doesn't see it, as is the case with Lois's bathing suit.—LR

*****

Dear Editor,

ACTION #566 was clever and also very nice.

"Traumas in the Bahamas" seems to me to be a cleverly disguised parody of a comic book sailor who will remain nameless. With the eating of a weed, Captain's Strong's speech defect, the use of spinach, and the closing line, "They are what they are!" I just couldn't help but notice the parody, though it was cleverly disguised. Not only that, but I love the Bahamas just as much as I love Lois' figure.

When I was a kid in the 50's and 60's, *Superman* was one of my heroes—even though I knew he wasn't real—so I can identify with the kids in "With Love from Superman." Also, it's still nice to see that some people still care for those less fortunate.

BOB FISCHER
4697 NW 42 St.
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319

I love the Bahamas too, Bob. Now, if my husband would start using a printer there, maybe I could go along for his press okays. But Montreal in the dead of winter? No way.
And speaking of Montreal and my husband, guess who just walked in.—Laurie Rozakis

*****

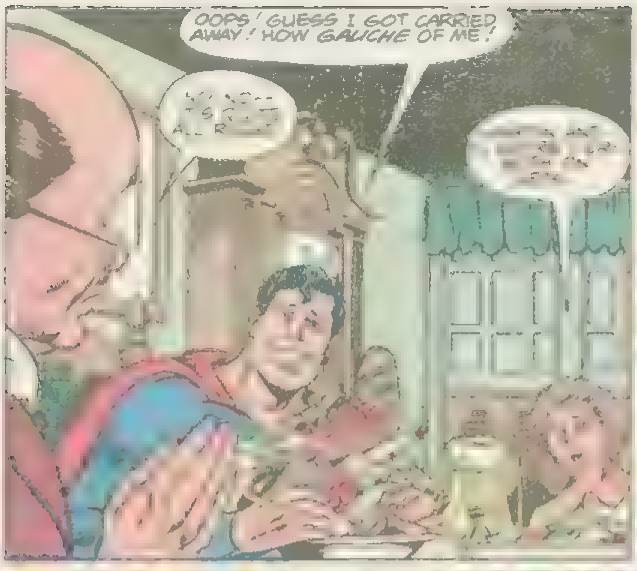
Looks like I got here just in time to remind you all to "Look, up in the sky...!" Thanks for filling in, Laurie. I've been up all night and -yawn- have to go to -yawn- sleep. Good night, folks.—Bob Rozakis

the SUPERMAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

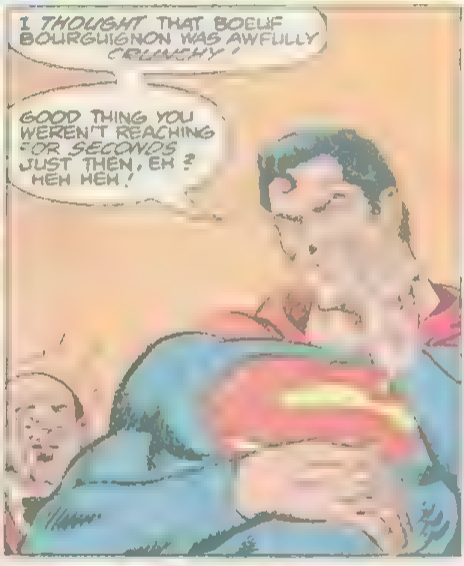
CRAIG BOLDMAN / WRITER | HOWARD BENDER / PENCILLER | PABLO MARCOS / INKER | ALBERT DE GUZMAN / LETTERER | GENE D'ANGELO / COLORIST | [illegible] / EDITOR

S-SUPERMAN?! WHAT A LUCKY BREAK YOUR SHOWING UP HERE -- JUST IN TIME TO SAVE MY LIFE!
AFTER THE COMMOTION HAS DIED DOWN...
THANKS AGAIN SUPERMAN. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO REPAY YOU--
WAIT -- I JUST GOT AN IDEA! HOW ABOUT A HOME-COOKED MEAL? MY WIFE MAKES THE WORLD'S BEST BOEUF BOURGUIGNON--
HONEY, GET ANOTHER PLACE SET TONIGHT. I'M BRINGING HOME A GUEST.
USE THE GOOD CHINA! IT'S SUPERMAN!
AND TELL YOU HOW THRILLED WE ARE TO HAVE YOU HERE SUPERMAN--
2

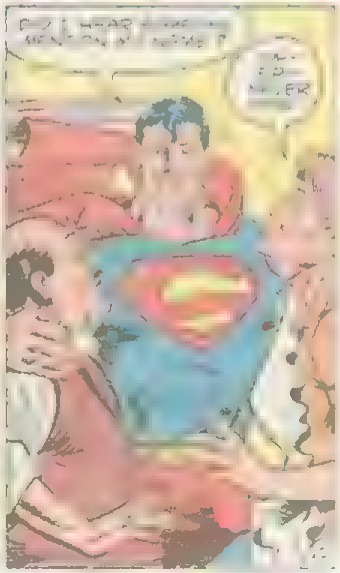
AS THE MEN SETTLE IN THE LIVING ROOM TO CHAT...
OH, THIS IS SO EXCITING! I'VE JUST GOT TO TELL DOROTHY AND EMMA!
DON'T YOU HATE NOT BELIEVE AND IS YOUR LIVING ROOM A THIS VERY--
WHOOOP!
I'M SO SORRY, HELEN.
I WAS JUST DEMONSTRATING TO MARTIN HOW I USED MY SUCTION BREATH--
TO AIR-LIFT HIM AHEAD OF THE EXPLOSION'S SHOCK-WAVE!
ZIP!
BUT IT'S JUST AS WELL--WE DON'T REALLY WANT A LOT OF NEIGHBORS COMING AROUND TO SPOIL OUR NICE, PLEASANT DINNER, DO WE?
NO!
OF COURSE NOT, SUPERMAN!
HERE WE ARE! I HOPE YOU LIKE IT!
SNIFF! M-M-M!
SMELLS OUT OF THIS WORLD--!
NOTHING LIKE SAVING LIVES TO WORK UP AN APPETITE!
OH, DO HELP YOURSELF, SUPERMAN!


OOPS! GUESS I GOT CARRIED AWAY! HOW GAUCHE OF ME!

SLURP
YUM


I THOUGHT THAT BOEUF BOURGUIGNON WAS AWFULLY CRUNCHY!
GOOD THING YOU WEREN'T REACHING FOR SECONDS JUST THEN, EH? HEH HEH!

AS THE REMAINING DIMES ARE FLUNG AWAY!!!
MARTIN, WOULD YOU PLEASE COME DOWN TO THE BASEMENT FOR A MOMENT?



I'M RARELY TREATED TO SUCH HOSPITALITY.
WOULD YOU CARE TO HEAR ABOUT SOME OF MY OLDEN DAYS? OF COURSE!
WELL, MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH LEX LUTHOR WAS SOMETHING! IT ALL BEGAN...
TIME PASSETH...
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
...AND PASSETH...
...BUT THE 13TH TIME I FOUGHT LUTHOR WAS ONE OF THE VERY NASTIEST! THIS TIME HE'D INVENTED A GADGET THAT ACTUALLY TURNED ME INTO A...
ZZZ--UH? SORRY, GUESS I'VE DOZED OFF...
I'M RARELY TREATED TO SUCH HOSPITALITY. I NEVER GET TIRED!
I PREFER WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE HORRORS!
WELL--WHY--ER--WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU SPEND THE NIGHT, SUPERMAN BUT--UM--WE HAVE NO GUEST ROOM
TUT TUT
I COULDN'T TURN DOWN SUCH A GRACIOUS INVITATION. WE SUPER-HEROES TAKE UP VIRTUALLY NO FLOOR SPACE.
SEE - LIKE SLEEPING ON A CLOUD!
LONG INTO A SLEEPLESS NIGHT...
RRRUMBLE
RUMMBLE RUMMBLE
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT WE DON'T LIVE NEAR A RAILWAY TRACK!
IT'S NOT A TRAIN! AND IT'S NOT MOUNT VESUVIUS! IT'S YOUR FRIEND WITH THE CAPE!
HE SNORES!
5

SZWONKK
I'LL PUT A STOP TO THIS!
ZZWANK
SUPERMAN, I--
UH--WHA?
THUD!
AAUGGH!
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
SUPERMAN! WAKE UP!
HUH--? OH... I MUST'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT LUTHOR!
YOU SHOULD NEVER WAKE A SLEEPING SUPERMAN!
SSAWNKK
HELEN... TOMORROW--
--ME GOES!
SATURDAY MORN...
HONEY, I CAN'T MAKE BREAKFAST--THE STOVE'S NOT WORKING!
OHH, THAT'S TOO BAD.
HEH-HEH! I "FIXED" THE STOVE! MR. S. WILL HAVE TO FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO MOOCH!
NO PROBLEM...
...MY HEAT VISION WILL MAKE A FINE SUBSTITUTE FOR YOUR RANGE!
I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THE STOVE FOR YOU THIS EVENING! --OR MAYBE TOMORROW!
GRRR!
6

AS THE EXCRUCIATINGLY LONG WEEKEND UNFOLDS...
PLEASE, LORD, LET THERE BE SOMETHING...
...LOOK! AN EMERGENCY! IT'S A JOB FOR--
--SUPERMAN! RIGHT!
CLICK
NEWS LIVE
KEEP WATCHING YOUR TV-SCREEN AND SEE HOW I HANDLE THIS HOSTAGE SITUATION!
ZOOM
MILES AWAY, VIA THE MIRACLE OF SUPER-STRENGTH, AIM, AND VISION...
BONK!
INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM, THE TERRORIST WAS RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS BY A GLANCING BLOW FROM--A BOWLING BALL!
MY BOWLING BALL!
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK!
AS SUNDAY DRAWS TO A CLOSE...
WE'VE HAD TO BABY-SIT THAT IDIOT EVERY MOMENT THIS WEEKEND! I'M A PRISONER IN MY OWN HOUSE!
I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE, I TELL YOU!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO, DEAR--LOOK! HE'S LEAVING!
LEAVING?
HE'S GONE?
FOR REAL?
HI, FOLKS, JUST WENT TO FETCH A FEW OF MY THINGS!
YOU'VE MADE ME FEEL SO WELCOME--I'VE DECIDED TO STAY!
¡GRR!
BUT, MOMENTS LATER...
7

GO 'WAY! DO I HAVE TO DROP A TON OF KRYPTONITE ON YOU? YOU'RE NOT WANTED!
WHOA! CAREFUL, MARTIN! YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF!
SWISHH!!
LET'S SEE WHAT MY SUPER-VISION SHOWS--AH! THE DANGER HAS PASSED!
I CAN DROP THIS ACT NOW!
HUH? WHATTA YOU TALKING ABOUT?
"WHEN I SHOOK YOUR HAND ON FRIDAY--I ACCIDENTALLY CONTAMINATED YOU WITH DANGEROUS SPACE-BACTERIA!"
I'LL JUST CHECK HIM OVER FOR INJURIES--GREAT KRYPTON! WHAT HAVE I DONE?
"I'D BEEN WORKING WITH GERMS IN MY FORTRESS JUST BEFORE I RESCUED YOU, NORMALLY, I'M AUTOMATICALLY DECONTAMINATED! SOMEHOW, THESE GERMS RESISTED THE DISINFECTANT SPRAY!
"THE GERMS SOON DIED ON MY SUPER-SKIN--BUT THEY WOULDN'T ON YOURS. FORTUNATELY, I KNEW FROM MY STUDIES WHAT WOULD CLEANSE YOUR BODY OF THE GERMS--"
A SUSTAINED STATE OF AMSER WILL KILL THE BACTERIA!
I MUST MAKE MARTIN DO A "SLOW BURN"--AND KEEP HIM AWAY FROM OTHERS!
THE GERMS ONLY AFFECT MALES, SO HELEN WAS SAFE. SORRY I PUT YOU THROUGH THIS, BUT YOU'RE "CLEAN" NOW! AND I'LL REPAIR ALL THE DAMAGE I CAUSED.
WELL--I GUESS I CAN FORGIVE YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE TWICE!
GLAD TO HEAR IT! NOW--WHAT TIME IS DINNER?
SLAM!
WHAT'D I SAY!?
THAT MARTIN AND HELEN--NICE FOLKS...
...BUT BOY, ARE THEY TOUCHY! HA HA!
THE END

MEANWHILE...

Part III (Finally!)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CARTOONIST/COMMUTER/EXECUTIVE EDITOR

9:22 After a brisk walk covering the roughly half-mile distance between Grand Central Station and DC's offices at 666 Fifth Avenue (a nice enough building, but the "dimples" on the cast metal panes that decorate its exterior make it appear to have a terminal case of acne), a short elevator ride takes me to the eighth floor. I enter our reception area, say good morning to Ruthie (our receptionist) and Clark ("Clark" is a life-size dummy of Clark Kent which permanently occupies a chair in our waiting room, endlessly reading the same page of the same newspaper), and head up the long hallway toward my office.

"Morning, Tom. Your place or mine?" We meet for a few minutes each morning to update each other on the previous day's events and see if we can head off whatever calamities are brewing this day. As Managing Editor, Tom Condon is responsible for schedules, creator contracts, and much of the business of our department.

"Yours. I'll be up in a few minutes."

"No rush, I'm going to get a cup a coffee first anyway."

I continue down the way to my digs. "Morning, Julie."

"You're late!"

"I'm never late, Julie, the **train** was late!" Actually, that's Julie's pet line, but I like it well enough to swipe it.

9:27 Coffee cups filled and at hand, Tom and I start the day. Minor problems have developed in the ongoing contractual talks with Don McGregor (Questworld) and Dan Jurgens (Booster Gold). I like both concepts and offer some solutions in the hope that we can resolve the problems and move on. Editor Alan Gold wants to change the date of his **Justice League of America Annual**. The projected story line ties in with the November cover-dated issue of **Crisis on Infinite Earths** and should be released on the October cover-date for maximum benefit.

"Aces with me, Tom. Check with distribution people and Paul (Levitz)." **The Loser's Special** (also tied in to **Crisis**) has to be released on either the September or the October schedule. September is better creatively, but some of our marketing folk think October makes more sense for them. It's Marketing Director Bruce Bristow's call, but he's at a sales meeting in Las Vegas and not due back for over a week. We'll try to get him on the phone later. (When we talk to Bruce later that day, he goes with creative and opts for September. Yeah! One for the good guys!)

10:00 Planning schedule meeting in V.P. Paul Levitz's office. A group of high-level people go over our current schedules to see if we're making them (we are—barely, in some cases) and project releases, cancellations, new launches, potential problems and opportunities in the months ahead. Our planning schedule extends to March 1986. Of course, some of it is just wishful thinking at this early date.

11:00 Back in my office I delay my three daily 20-minute meetings with individual editors in order to interview a young man I met recently in Atlanta who was interested in learning more about comics editorial work. An hour in or near my office will confirm for him that it isn't all fun and games.

11:20 Interview over, I call Alan Gold in 20 minutes late for his Tuesday, 11:00 meeting. All of DC's editors and associate editors have weekly scheduled meetings with me so we can discuss problems and/or solutions in their individual areas of responsibility. Spur-of-the-moment meetings (some in the hallway, some behind closed doors) attend to the emergencies that often crop up and can't wait until the next scheduled meeting. Back to Alan Gold: lack of space, of course, prohibits my detailing the entire 20 minutes. We focus on script problems in a projected mini-series revival of **Jason's Quest**, a title last published by DC in the 60s, and talk about some future plans for **Blue Devil**, DC's 1984 sleeper hit.

11:40 Sal Amendola's turn. After some run-of-the-mill discussions of his **Talent Showcase**, I remind Sal that he promised a short piece for this column outlining our plans for the final phase of our current talent search. He promises delivery soon. (You'll see it in the next week or two.)

12:00 Nick Cuti tells me we're having problems getting covers out of Neal Adams for the extremely popular **Deadman** deluxe reprints. (So what else is new?) We do everything we can to give him more time. The covers he does are often worth the effort it takes to get them.

12:30 Lunch! I seldom eat in the office. I believe it helps to reduce the stress to get away at least for a short time each day.

1:45 Back from lunch. Took some extra time today ... I have a lighter-than-usual afternoon. From now until my three o'clock appointment I will close my office door and go through the huge stacks of paper (scripts, art, memoes, letters, etc.) that pile up on every flat surface in my office. It's clear I need more file space ... and more trash baskets. I make some headway with my "in" tray, managing to move most (but never all) of the letters, memoes, and copies of this week's cover production to their next destination. I also put a stack of unread script presentations in my portfolio ... something to do on my hour-and-a-half commutes.

3:00 I meet with Matt Wagner, who is writing and drawing a **Demon** four-issue mini-series for us. Matt is the writer/artist of **Mage**, published by **Comico**, and is a good storyteller. He came to us with a very interesting idea that will redefine the **Demon** character and we bought it. Now he's showing me the pencils for the first issue (I love 'em) and discussing cover ideas.

4:30 Time for my "Let's go out for a beer" meeting with Frank Miller. Getting out of my office is the only way I can guarantee an uninterrupted hour of talk on an important project, and this project is important. Frank has contracted to write and draw a three-issue (48 pages each) set of **Batman** books in a brand-new format (which I won't talk too much about here)! To give you an idea: book one opens sometime in the future with Bruce Wayne and Police Commissioner James Gordon meeting in a bar to drink a toast to the Batman ... who was last seen ten years ago! Don't miss it. You've never seen a **Batman** like this one!

5:40 Time to dash off to get the 6:07 home.

7:45 I walk in the door from my garage into the kitchen. My wife Marie kisses me hello, hands me the phone.

"It's Roy Thomas, dear..."

Thank you and good afternoon.

Dick

☐ **TALES OF THE LEGION 326:** Part 1 of the battle against the Legion of Super-Villains!

☐ **ACTION COMICS 570:** Two titantic tales, including a spotlight on Jimmy Olsen!

☐ **DETECTIVE COMICS 553:** Batman vs. Black Mask, plus a Green Arrow shocker!

☐ **WORLD'S FINEST COMICS 318:** Why would anyone want to kill two boys who aren't even old enough to vote?

☐ **ALL-STAR SQUADRON 48:** King Arthur kidnaps the Shining Knight, plus the Blackhawks!

☐ **ARION 34:** The deadly evil of Arion's mother leaves devastating effects around the world!

☐ **V 7:** Julie goes home for a rest but finds herself stalked by an assassin!

☐ **JONAH HEX 92:** In this final issue, Jonah goes out in "A Blaze of Glory!"

☐ **AMBUSH BUG 3:** A Bug-eyed view of the DC Universe, including Egg Fu and Mopee!